

[The Arizona Republic](#)

Rep. **Harry Mitchell**, D-Ariz., today marked the passing of Sen. **Edward Kennedy**, D-Mass., by hailing the late liberal lion of the Senate as "one of the most influential and productive legislators in Congress" and declaring his death a "monumental loss."

Here's Mitchell's complete statement:

"I am deeply saddened this morning by the news of Senator Edward Kennedy's passing. Senator Kennedy embodied public service - devoting his entire life not just to his home state of Massachusetts, but to the nation as a whole. In a Senate career spanning four decades, Senator Kennedy became one of the most influential and productive legislators in Congress. He was a staunch advocate, who argued passionately, but also knew how to reach across the aisle to get things done. As a lifelong student of government, I recognize the indelible mark that his work has made on our country. With his passing, America has lost a statesman. I join the rest of the country in mourning this monumental loss. My thoughts today are with the entire Kennedy family."